



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6538**

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
Majority Leader of the House  
H-107, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
Chairman, House Committee on Rules  
H-132, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Leader Hoyer and Chairman McGovern,

I am writing to request that you suspend consideration of this week's Judiciary legislation until basic and essential rights of the minority are fairly observed.

For now the second time this Congress, it appears the House will consider two pieces of legislation by attaching them to a completely unrelated shell vehicle, thereby precluding the minority from offering a motion to recommit.

The last time this occurred, Representative Ro Khanna admitted the maneuver was intentionally designed to silence dissenting opinions. Coming on the heels of the 6th motion to recommit being adopted this Congress, it serves to reason that Democrat Leadership is once again willfully choosing to restrict debate, rather than promote a full and thorough deliberation of these measures.

My last letter to Leader Hoyer on this subject regrettably went unanswered. Given the gravity of this new precedent you are setting for our institution, I believe all members deserve a public response to the following questions:

- Will you commit to ending this practice, which has been pursued without any consultation or sign-off from our side of the aisle?
- If not, are you contemplating using any Republican-sponsored vehicles in this ploy, which presumably would be done without their approval?
- What is the status of the request by freshmen Democrats to consider ending the use of the motion to recommit entirely?

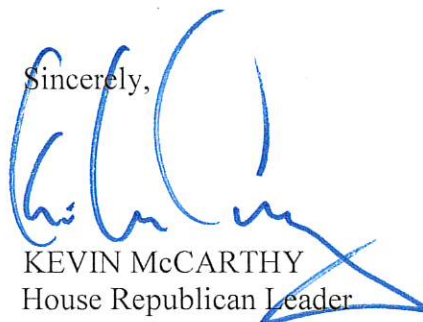
As you both know, the motion to recommit has been a hallmark of the House for over one hundred years. It was created with the stated purpose of giving the minority party the right "to have a vote upon its position upon great public questions."

In my view, eliminating the motion to recommit would be akin to the “nuclear option” in the House. I sincerely believe neither of you seeks to have that ignominious distinction on your resumes. However, your actions thus far in the 116th Congress sadly do not inspire confidence.

Though we may not serve in the majority at present, our members still represent millions of Americans across the country who lend us their voice and count on us to fight for their priorities in Washington. In that spirit, I would respectfully ask that we not proceed on these measures until the minority is allowed to offer meaningful input on the matters before us through a motion to recommit, as has been tradition in the House since 1909.

We look forward to your response on this critical matter.

Sincerely,



KEVIN McCARTHY  
House Republican Leader